New Agency for Enforcement of National Building Codes and Bis Codes in Construction of Buildings

1146. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collapse of high rise buildings in Gujarat have raised concerns regarding the safety of recently constructed buildings in Delhi;

(b) whether all civic agencies are now required to follow the provisions of National Building Codes and Bureau of India Standard Codes to ensure construction of only earthquake resistant buildings in the entire country including the Capital;

(c) if so, whether Government would establish a new agency strictly to enforce the new provisions throughout the country; and

(d) if not, what are Government's alternative plans for strict enforcement of the provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) It was stressed that all local bodies, civic agencies strictly adhere to the provisions of related Indian Standards and Codes in the design and construction of buildings and other structures to ensure safety through earthquake resistant building technologies as stipulated for different zones.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation is considering a legislation to regulate the work of professionals such as Engineers and others engaged in housing & construction activities. This is being done in consultation with Ministry of Human Resources and Development.

The Ministry had issued guidelines in 1998 to all States/UTs including Delhi to follow structural safety norms/building bye-laws in construction of buildings.

Cracks in Delhi Police Headquarter and AIIMS Building

1147. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Cracks in Delhi Police Headquarter, AIIMS building" appearing in Hindustan Times, dated the 30th January, 2001;